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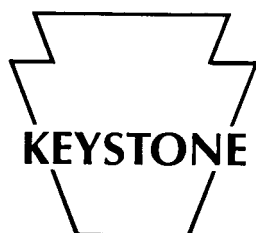
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Ag Digest

Note to Survey Respondents: Results of many surveys we conduct throughout the year are included in this report! Most survey results are not published individually. **Thank you** for taking the time to complete our surveys!

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The Keystone Ag Digest may be found on the Internet at the following address:

www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Pennsylvania/Publications/Keystone_Ag_Digest/index.asp

HOG & PIG INVENTORY

There were 1,090,000 hogs and pigs on Pennsylvania farms on December 1, 2005. This estimated inventory was 10,000 head more than the previous year's inventory and the September 1 inventory.

Market hog inventory, at 990,000 head, increased 5,000 head since September and was up 25,000 head from December 2004; while the breeding herd inventory, at 100,000 head was up 5,000 from September, but down 15,000 head from one year ago. The September-November 2005 pig crop totaled 461,000 head, down 5,000 head from the same period a year ago. There were 47,000 sows farrowed during the quarter, 2,000 less than the previous year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 47 percent of the breeding herd. The average litter rate was 9.8 pigs per litter, up from 9.4 pigs per litter the previous quarter, and up from the 9.5 pigs per litter average from a year ago.

Pennsylvania hog farmers intend to have 49,000 sows farrow during the December 2005-February 2006 quarter, 2,000 more than actually farrowed for the same period in 2005; and 49,000 for the March - May 2006 quarter, up 2,000 from the number of sows that actually farrowed during that time in 2005.

The U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2005, was 61.2 million head. This was up slightly from December 1, 2004, but down 1 percent from September 1, 2005. Breeding inventory, at 6.01 million head, was up 1 percent from last year and last quarter. Market hog inventory, at 55.2 million head, was up slightly from last year, but down 1 percent from last quarter. The September-November 2005 U.S. pig crop, at 26.1 million head, was up 1 percent from 2004 and up 2 percent from 2003. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.89 million head, unchanged from last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 48 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 9.03 for the September-November 2005 period, compared to 8.96 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 9.10 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.88 million sows farrow during the December 2005-February 2006 quarter, up 1 percent from the actual farrowings during the same period in both 2005 and 2004. Intended farrowings for March-May 2006, at 2.89 million sows, are up slightly from 2005, and up 1 percent from 2004. The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 39 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, up from 38 percent last year.

HOGS & PIGS: NUMBER ON FARMS, DECEMBER 1, SOWS FARROWING & PIG CROP, 2004-2005

Item	Pennsylvania			United States		
	2004	2005	2005/04	2004	2005	2005/04
	(000) Head	(000) Head	Percent	(000) Head	(000) Head	Percent
Inventory - December 1:						
All Hogs & Pigs.....	1,080	1,090	101	60,975	61,197	100
Kept For Breeding.....	115	100	87	5,969	6,011	101
Market.....	965	990	103	55,005	55,186	100
Market Hogs & Pigs By Weight Groups:						
Under 60 Pounds.....	280	310	111	19,980	19,955	100
60-119 Pounds.....	275	280	102	13,439	13,552	101
120-179 Pounds.....	215	215	100	11,186	11,266	101
180 Pounds and Over.....	195	185	95	10,401	10,414	100
Sows Farrowing:						
December ¹ - February.....	53	47	89	2,836	2,835	100
March-May.....	50	47	94	2,870	2,882	100
June-August.....	46	47	102	2,905	2,899	100
September-November.....	49	47	96	2,888	2,888	100
Pig Crop:						
December ¹ - February.....	451	447	99	25,105	25,343	101
March-May.....	438	428	98	25,633	25,986	101
June-August.....	423	442	104	26,162	26,276	100
September-November.....	466	461	99	25,881	26,080	101
	Number			Number		
Pigs Per Litter:						
December ¹ - February.....	8.50	9.50	112	8.85	8.94	101
March-May.....	8.75	9.10	104	8.93	9.02	101
June-August.....	9.20	9.40	102	9.01	9.06	101
September-November.....	9.50	9.80	103	8.96	9.03	101

¹ December preceding year.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS, SELECTED COMMODITIES, DECEMBER 2005

Commodity	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Dec 2004	Nov 2005	Dec 2005 ¹	Dec 2004	Nov 2005	Dec 2005 ¹
<i>Dollars</i>							
Corn	Bu.	2.10	2.06	2.16	2.04	1.77	1.88
Wheat, Winter ²	Bu.	-	-	-	3.34	3.29	3.30
Oats	Bu.	1.72	2.50	2.35	1.60	1.63	1.73
Barley ²	Bu.	-	-	-	2.49	2.64	2.54
Soybeans ²	Bu.	-	-	-	5.45	5.62	5.71
Hay, Dry All	Ton	126.00	135.00	141.00	86.00	91.70	92.00
Dry Alfalfa	Ton	141.00	160.00	168.00	92.10	97.50	97.70
Dry Other.....	Ton	114.00	128.00	134.00	72.40	76.30	78.00
Apples, Fresh Use.....	Lb.	.223	.230	.210	.222	.282	.265
Potatoes.....	Cwt.	8.10	⁶	⁶	5.36	6.31	6.60
Cows, Slaughter.....	Cwt.	47.50	44.60	45.90	48.60	46.00	46.60
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	81.20	84.20	86.90	91.90	97.30	99.10
Calves	Cwt.	110.00	118.00	115.00	122.00	133.00	135.00
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	51.00	42.00	42.70	52.70	43.90	45.80
Sows	Cwt.	42.90	35.70	36.70	44.80	37.00	38.20
Eggs ³	Doz.	.550	.460	.560	.488	.482	.564
Milk, Fluid Grade	Cwt.	18.00	17.10	-	16.40	15.10	14.80
Manufactured Grade	Cwt.	17.40	14.60	-	16.10	14.40	14.40
All.....	Cwt.	18.00	17.10	16.40	16.40	15.10	14.70
Milk Cows ⁴	Head	-	-	-	-	-	-

¹ Preliminary. ² Pennsylvania price not published on monthly basis, average price is published annually. ³ Market (table) eggs, including eggs sold retail by the producer. ⁴ Quarterly (Jan., Apr., July, Oct.). ⁵ Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual firms. ⁶ Monthly price for potatoes discontinued in 2005.

DECEMBER FARM PRICES RECEIVED INDEX INCREASED 1 POINT FROM LAST MONTH

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in December, at 114, based on 1990-92=100, increased 1 point (0.9 percent) from November. The Crop Index is up 4 points (3.8 percent) but the Livestock Index decreased 2 points (1.7 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for tomatoes, corn, strawberries, and lettuce. Lower prices were received for oranges, broilers, dairy, and grapes. The overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased average marketings of dairy, wheat, oranges, and broilers offset decreased marketings of cattle, soybeans, grapes, and corn.

Preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 3 points (2.7 percent) from December 2004. The Food Commodities Index, at 120, was unchanged from last month but increased 3 points (2.6 percent) from December 2004.

Food Grains: The December index, at 116, is 0.9 percent above the previous month and 2.7 percent above a year ago. The December all wheat price, at \$3.47 per bushel, is unchanged from November but up 7 cents from December 2004.

Feed Grains & Hay: The December index is 89, up 7.2 percent from last month but 4.3 percent below a year ago. The corn price, at \$1.88 per bushel, is up 11 cents from last month but 16 cents below December 2004. The all hay price, at \$92.00 per ton, is 30 cents above November and up \$6.00 from last December. Grain sorghum, at \$2.94 per cwt, is 12 cents above November but 5 cents below December last year.

Dairy Products: The December index, at 113, is down 2.6 percent from a month ago and 10 percent lower than December last year. The December all milk price of \$14.70 is down 40 cents from last month and down \$1.70 from December 2004. The fluid grade milk price is down 30 cents from November but the manufactured grade milk price is unchanged from last month.

U.S. PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS¹

Commodity	Unit	Dec 2004	Nov 2005	Dec 2005
<i>Dollars</i>				
Wheat.....	Bu.	10.00	10.60	10.60
Corn	Bu.	6.74	7.10	7.08
All Milk, Sold to Plants ²	Cwt.	35.00	37.60	37.50
Wool.....	Lb.	1.56	1.74	1.73
Barley.....	Bu.	6.69	7.20	7.17
Oats.....	Bu.	3.93	4.22	4.20
Potatoes	Cwt.	15.20	16.00	15.90
Rye.....	Bu.	6.28	5.78	6.75
Soybeans	Bu.	15.90	17.20	17.10
Apples, For Fresh Use ³	Lb.	.528	.557	.555
Beef Cattle.....	Cwt.	170.00	184.00	184.00
Calves	Cwt.	228.00	250.00	249.00
Hogs.....	Cwt.	105.00	114.00	114.00
Lambs.....	Cwt.	201.00	223.00	223.00
Sheep.....	Cwt.	83.60	90.10	89.80
Eggs	Doz.	1.69	1.79	1.79
Turkeys, Live	Lb.	1.020	1.080	1.070

¹ Parity prices are computed under the provisions of Title III, Subtitle a, Section 301 (a) of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 as amended by the Agricultural Acts of 1948, 1949, and 1956.

² Seasonally adjusted price as percentage of parity price.

³ Equivalent packinghouse-door returns for CA, NY (apples only). Price at point of first sale for other states.

COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS
NOVEMBER 30, 2005

Apples in cold storage reported by cold storage warehouses for Pennsylvania totaled 6,467,000 bushels on November 30, 2005, compared to 6,160,000 bushels on November 30, 2004. The three varieties with the largest fresh market and processing reported stocks in bushels were: York with 2,143,000; Golden Delicious with 1,621,000; and Rome, 1,056,000 bushels.

Total apple stocks in Pennsylvania totaled 271,614,000 pounds on November 30, 2005, compared to 260,000,000 pounds on November 30, 2004. Pear stocks in cold storage decreased from previous year's stocks of 1,170,000 pounds to 4,000 pounds on November 30, 2005.

Nationally, frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on November 30, 2005 were greater than year earlier levels for chicken, frozen vegetables and eggs. Butter stocks were down 37 percent from last month, but up 7 percent from a year ago.

Total red meat supplies in freezers were down 2 percent from last month and down 3 percent from last year. Frozen pork supplies were down 3 percent from last month and down 1 percent from the previous year. Stocks of pork bellies were up 89 percent from last month, but down 16 percent from last year.

Total frozen poultry supplies on November 30, 2005 were down 12 percent from the previous month, but up 1 percent from a year ago. Total stocks of chicken were up 8 percent from the previous month and up 13 percent from last year. Total pounds of turkey in freezers were down 52 percent from last month and down 32 percent from November 30, 2004.

STOCKS IN COLD STORAGE, UNITED STATES

Commodity	Nov 30, 2004	Oct 31, 2005	Nov 30, 2005
	<i>(000) Lbs.</i>		
Butter	57,177	98,112	61,324
Cheese, Total Natural	704,251	750,930	716,784
Eggs, Frozen	17,324	17,619	17,593
Poultry, Total Frozen.....	1,064,635	1,224,511	1,074,748
Chicken.....	769,185	804,192	870,961
Turkeys.....	294,868	417,605	200,901
Fruits, Frozen.....	1,181,257	1,213,294	1,131,878
Fruit Juices, Frozen.....	1,741,581	1,393,806	1,301,672
Vegetables, Total Frozen	2,423,744	2,606,753	2,454,160
Potatoes, Total Frozen.....	1,219,345	1,199,971	1,123,153
Meats, Total Frozen	912,602	905,928	885,021
Beef, Total Frozen.....	463,297	439,186	430,588
Pork, Total Frozen.....	436,332	446,476	433,578

PENNSYLVANIA APPLES IN COLD STORAGE, NOVEMBER 2005

Variety	November 30, 2004					November 30, 2005				
	Fresh Market ¹		Processing		Total	Fresh Market ¹		Processing		Total
	Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.		Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.	
	<i>(1,000) Bushels</i>									
York.....	7	6	1,182	629	1,824	11	7	1,620	505	2,143
Stayman	32	1	51	0	84	28	4	35	0	67
Rome.....	60	62	795	391	1,308	38	42	569	407	1,056
Red Delicious	174	273	108	61	616	260	330	75	40	705
Golden Delicious ..	76	138	510	477	1,201	230	190	670	531	1,621
Gala.....	19	25	4	2	50	63	44	7	0	114
McIntosh.....	25	0	15	11	51	35	0	2	10	47
Fuji	133	18	35	0	186	105	43	36	1	185
Other ²	142	93	443	162	840	90	105	251	83	529
Total.....	668	616	3,143	1,733	6,160	860	765	3,265	1,577	6,467

¹ Includes total quantities on hand; graded and ungraded, packed or loose on the last day of the month specified. ² Includes miscellaneous varieties and some quantities of above varieties not identified. n/p (not published) due to too few reports or insignificant volumes stored, these are included in the 'other' variety category.

APPLE & PEAR STOCKS IN COLD STORAGE, PENNSYLVANIA & UNITED STATES, NOVEMBER 30, 2005

Commodity	All Warehouse Stocks		
	November 30, 2004	October 31, 2005	November 30, 2005
PENNSYLVANIA			
APPLES:			
Regular Storage	161,300,000	167,538,000	173,250,000
Controlled Atmosphere	98,700,000	91,896,000	98,364,000
Total Apples.....	260,000,000	259,434,000	271,614,000
PEARS:			
Bartletts	0	1,000	1,000
Other Varieties.....	1,170,000	6,000	3,000
Total Pears	1,170,000	7,000	4,000
UNITED STATES			
APPLES:			
Regular Storage	1,183,155,000	1,563,343,000	1,028,602,000
Controlled Atmosphere	4,710,686,000	4,258,308,000	4,415,177,000
Total Apples.....	5,893,841,000	5,821,651,000	5,443,779,000
PEARS:			
Bartletts	23,506,000	56,457,000	30,139,000
Other Varieties.....	343,681,000	462,004,000	405,683,000
Total Pears	367,187,000	518,461,000	435,822,000

MONTHLY POULTRY SUMMARY

Item	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Nov 2004	Oct 2005	Nov 2005	Nov 2004	Oct 2005	Nov 2005
Layers	Thous.	23,630	23,778	24,096	344,797	343,987	346,596
Eggs Per 100 Layers	Number	2,306	2,317	2,249	2,170	2,239	2,175
Eggs Produced	Million	545	551	542	7,482	7,701	7,538
Chick Hatch-Egg Type	Thous.	5,787	4,343	4,008	38,758	35,367	32,752
Chick Hatch-Broiler Type	Thous.	12,964	14,644	13,574	730,353	776,333	747,335
Poults Placed	Thous.	-	-	-	22,232	21,400	21,847

EGG PRODUCTION

Egg production in Pennsylvania during November 2005 totaled 542 million eggs, down half a percentage point from the 545 million produced in November 2004. The total number of layers averaged 24.1 million during November, up 2 percent from last year. Production per 100 layers was 2,249 eggs during the month, a decrease of 57 eggs from November 2004. Egg-type chicks hatched during November 2005 totaled 4.01 million, down 31 percent from the 5.79 million hatched the previous November. Broiler-type chicks hatched totaled 13.6 million during November 2005, up 5 percent from the 13 million hatched during the same month last year.

United States' egg production totaled 7.54 billion during November 2005, up 1 percent from last year's total. The total number of layers during November averaged 347 million, up slightly from the average number of layers during the same month last year. November egg production per 100 layers was 2,175 eggs, up 5 eggs from the same month last year.

Egg-type chicks hatched in the United States during November totaled 32.8 million, down 15 percent from November 2004. Broiler-type hatch totaled 747 million, up 2 percent from last year at this time. There were 21.8 million turkey poults placed in the United States during November 2005, down 2 percent from the placements during the same month a year ago.

COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, NOV 2005

Specie	Unit	Pennsylvania	United States
Red Meat Prod	Mil. Lbs.	102.7	3,942
Cattle	Thous. Hd.	75.4	2,668
	Mil. Lbs. Live	94.1	3,426
Calves	Thous. Hd.	10.9	56
	Mil. Lbs. Live	4.6	21
Hogs	Thous. Hd.	244.7	9,132
	Mil. Lbs. Live	60.9	2,484
Sheep & Lambs	Thous. Hd.	4.0	225
	Mil. Lbs. Live	.4	32

COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Commercial red meat production in Pennsylvania during November 2005 totaled 102.7 million pounds, dressed weight basis, up 11 percent from November 2004. Beef production, at 94.1 million pounds live weight, was up 21 percent from November 2004. Total head slaughtered was 75,400, up 15 percent from last year. Average live weight increased 65 pounds to 1,248 pounds. Veal production was 4.6 million pounds live weight, down 16 percent from a year ago. Calf slaughter, at 10,900 head, was down 24 percent, and average live weight increased 41 pounds to 427 pounds. Pork production, at 60.9 million pounds live weight, was up 3 percent from a year earlier. Total head slaughtered was 244,700, up 3 percent from November of 2004. Average live weight was 249 pounds, up 2 pounds from November of last year. Lamb and mutton production was 384,000 pounds live weight, down 17 percent. The number slaughtered was 4,000, down 23 percent from November of last year. The average live weight increased 6 pounds from November 2004 to 95 pounds.

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